

ZEA MAYS. (Poaceae.) From the Andean Highlands, near Cuzco, Peru. Presented by Mrs. Harriet Chalmers Adams. For immediate distribution.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

BRAZIL, Diamantina. Mr. Ernest G. Swain, July 10. Offers to send seeds and plants from there. Describes a fruit resembling a cactus, called Jaca di Agua. Says he has never seen it elsewhere and will send fruits. Also describes a new spinach growing there and a very pretty wild flower resembling the Spanish-needle.

CHILE, Temuco. Mr. D. S. Bullock, July 20. Says that a plant apparently just like the cultivated potato and called by the Chileans wild potato, grows very commonly in that locality along the banks of rivers, but that he has never been able to find tubers. Has been told by the natives that up in the mountains these plants have tubers about as large as a man's thumb and 10 or 12 inches long.

CHINA, Tientsin. Dr. Yamei Kin, July 7. Speaks of a beautiful yellow varnish called t'ung yu, better known to foreigners as Ningpo varnish. It is as easy to put on as an ordinary shellac varnish, but is not in the least affected by hot or cold water, while it is so beautifully transparent that the grain of the wood shows as clearly as on a waxed floor and with a fine polish. It is a fine preservative for boats. The yellow softens to a tawny tint with age. Says that just now the Manchurian bean is attracting a good deal of attention and that the Chinese have a company with an expert chemist who has a laboratory in Paris, also that they have evolved a number of products, among them a fine soap and a kind of vegetable ivory.

CHINA, Weihsien, Shantung. Mr. Henry S. Cousins, June 28. About October 5, will send 250 cattles of pistache seeds.

INDIA, Poona, Bombay. Superintendent, Empress Botanical Garden, July 5. Describes the preparation of *Sesbania grandiflora* for food. Says the tender shoots, the fresh flowers, the pods while tender and the seeds are all used. The flowers and pods are used to make curry, the tender shoots are cut up and used as a vegetable, being cooked with asafoetida, cumin seed, sweet oil, etc.

JAVA, Lawang. Mr. M. Buysman, July 6. Suggests the establishment by this Government of a garden in Java. Says that with the exception of European fruit trees, as apples, pears, etc.,